

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 01751 041732Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W
-----050742Z 025134 /23R12
R 041615Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0984

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1751

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KREISKY, BRUNO), AU
SUBJECT: KREISKY VISIT TO WASHINGTON: AUSTRIAN POLICY AND KREISKY
VIEWS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE AND EUROCOMMUNISM

REF: A) STATE 046505, B) VIENNA 1717

1. CHANCELLOR CONSIDERS MAJOR UPTURN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN
MAJOR WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES TO BE KEY TO FORWARD MOVEMENT
ON OTHER FRONTS SUCH AS WESTERN EUROPE INTEGRATION, NORTH/SOUTH
DIALOGUE AND EAST-WEST IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION.
HIMSELF A PRAGMATIC SOCIALIST OF LONG-STANDING FAME, HE TENDS
TO VIEW ALL PROBLEMS AS HAVING LARGELY AN ECONOMIC BASIS.

2. KREISKY FEELS THAT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN WESTERN
EUROPE IN LAST FEW YEARS HAVE ON BALANCE BEEN ENCOURAGING.
HE MAKES POINT THAT THERE ARE NO LONGER ANY MILITARY
DICTATORSHIPS OR AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES IN WESTERN EUROPE
IN CONTRAST TO EASTERN EUROPE SCENE. POSITIVE FORCES SEEM
TO BE ASCENDING IN PORTUGAL AND SPAIN AND AUSTRIA IS
ASSISTING IN MODEST FASHION THEIR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PARTY CHANNELS. WITH REGARD
TO PORTUGAL, AUSTRIA IS PARTICIPATING IN THE EFTA
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, HAS GRANTED A MINOR TRADE
CONCESSION, AND HAS INITIATED SOME TRAINING PROGRAMS
IN SOCIAL WELFARE FIELDS. REGARDING SPAIN, AUSTRIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER WILL VISIT MADRID MARCH 7-10 TO
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EXPAND BILATERAL RELATIONS ACROSS SPECTRUM AND TO
RECONFIRM AUSTRIAN INTEREST IN NEGOTIATIONG FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT IN EFTA FRAMEWORK (REFTEL B).

3. AUSTRIA AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE FAVORS GREATER
WESTERN EUROPEAN UNITY IN ALL FIELDS AND HAS CONTINUED
ITS EFFORTS THROUGH BOTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND SOCIALIST

INTERNATIONAL TO PLAY A MODEST ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THIS OBJECTIVE. IN PRACTICE HOWEVER SITUATION IS COMPLICATED FOR AUSTRIA BECAUSE OF ITS NEUTRALITY AND BECAUSE OF BAN IN STATE TREATY ON ITS JOINING EEC AS FULL MEMBER. THUS THERE HAS DEVELOPED FEELING IN SOME GOA QUARTERS OF AUSTRIA'S ISOLATION AND POLITICAL EXCLUSION FROM MAJOR DECISION-MAKING IN WESTERN CAMP ON ISSUES CONSIDERED VITAL TO AUSTRIA.

4. KREISKY'S ATTITUDE ON EURCOMMUNISM IS A MIXTURE OF DISDAIN FOR ALL TOTALITARIAN SYSTEMS, INCLUDING ORTHODOX COMMUNIST ONES, AND FASCINATION WITH POSSIBILITY OF CPS IN ITALY, SPAIN AND FRANCE EVOLVING INTO SOME HYBRID FORM OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. HE HAS PUBLICLY BELITTLED AUSTRIA'S OWN COMMUNIST PARTY AS BEING TOOL OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS, MINISCULE COLLECTION OF AGED STALINISTS, AND AS NOT BEING CONCERNED WITH AUSTRIA'S OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS. AT SAME TIME, HE FEELS THAT BEST TACTIC FOR WEST VIS-A-VIS ITALIAN, SPANISH AND FRENCH CPS WOULD BE TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONAL STANCE WHILE CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC PRESSURE ON THEM TO CHANGE THEIR WAYS AND REFLECT IN FACT AND DEED THEIR NEWLY ADOPTED POLITICAL VOCABULARY. IN KREISKY'S VIEW, BEST RESULT OF SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE ACTUAL TRANSFORMATION OF THESE PARTIES INTO SOMETHING APPROACHING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CAMP; WORSE RESULT WOULD BE RISE OF NEW FACTIONS WITHIN PARTIES AND EVENTUAL SUNDERING OF PARTIES INTO VARIOUS WARRING ELEMENTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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KREISKY'S FORMULA AND FORECAST DOES NOT CONSIDER COMMUNIST TAKEOVER BY PEACFUL MEANS REALISTIC POSSIBILITY.

5. KREISKY REFUSES TO PASS JUDGMENT ON SOCIALIST PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE, E.G. FRANCE, SPAIN AND ITALY, REGARDING THEIR ALLIANCES OR WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH COMMUNISTS. THIS PRACTICE ACCORDS WITH SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN AFFAIRS OF OTHER SOCIALIST PARTIES BUT DOES PUT CHANCELLOR IN ANOMALOUS POSITION OF OPPOSING AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES OF RIGHT WHEREVER THEY MAY BE BUT NO COOPERATION BY SOCIALISTS WITH AUTHORITARIAN LEFTIST COMMUNIST OR OTHER MARXIST GROUPS IN FREE WORLD. RATIONAL OFFERED BY KREISKY IS THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE OF TEMPORARY NATURE, AIMED AT TAMING LEFTIST ELEMENTS, AND HAVE PURPOSE OF ULTIMATELY REFORMING THEM OR AT LEAST NEUTRALIZING THEM POLITICALLY. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENNA01751
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770076-0686
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770390/aaaadblh.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 76cc12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 46505, 77 VIENNA 1717
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3200434
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KREISKY VISIT TO WASHINGTON: AUSTRIAN POLICY AND KREISKY VIEWS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE AND EUROCOMMUNISM
TAGS: OVIP, AU, (KREISKY, BRUNO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/76cc12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009